

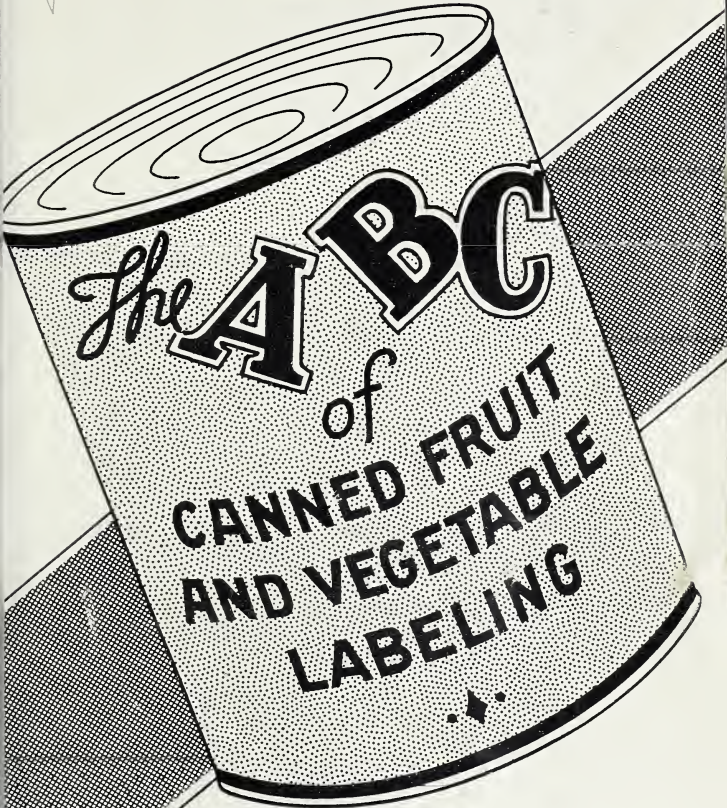
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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

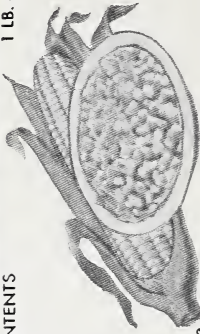


**WHOLE KERNEL  
GOLDEN SWEET CORN**

Substantially whole kernels, practically free from defects such as silk and husks. Sweet and tender.  
Can size—No. 2. Total net weight—1 lb. 4 oz. Approximately 2 1/4 cups. Yields 5.6 average servings.

**CONTENTS**

**1 LB. 4 OZ.**

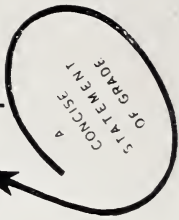


whole  
kernel

**golden sweet corn**

**G R A D E**

**A**



**ADDITIONAL  
DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION  
AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE  
FOR THE PRODUCT**

# The **ABC** of Canned Fruit and Vegetable Labeling

Prepared by the  
Agricultural Marketing Administration

**M**OST people want full value for their money when they buy canned foods, and this means that they are interested in both price and quality. As a rule, families with liberal incomes pay high prices for foods in their endeavor to obtain the best quality. Families with limited incomes have less money to spend for foods and of necessity usually choose the lower-priced products. Intelligent selection of canned foods at either high or low prices depends upon some reliable method of identifying quality.

There are so many brands available in retail stores—literally thousands—that neither the homemaker nor the retailer can be sure of the quality each brand is supposed to represent. The problem is complicated because canned foods are in sealed containers and the homemaker is unable to sample the product before she buys. These difficulties have aroused a keen interest in Government grade labeling.

The interest of the consumer is well served when the labels on canned fruits and vegetables carry (1) a concise statement of grade in such terms as



The U. S. grade label shows that the product was packed in a plant under the continuous inspection of the Agricultural Marketing Administration.

"Grade A," "Grade B," "Grade C," and (2) such additional descriptive information as may be appropriate for the product, for instance, the number of pieces in a can of peaches, sieve sizes of peas, strength of sirup on fruits, and number of servings.

#### FOUR QUALITY CLASSES

THE quality classes for canned fruits and vegetables established by the United States Department of Agriculture provide a reliable means of identifying quality. Regardless of the brand name, the price asked, or the store in which it is found, every can of fruit or vegetable on the retail market can be classified as Grade A, B, C, or below C grade. The grade of the product when sold in volume to the jobber or chain store, however, is frequently specified by the trade terms, "Fancy," "Choice," "Standard," and "Substandard."

Regardless of the grade designation, canned foods in any one of these grades are nutritious and wholly acceptable for human consumption. Otherwise, they could not be marketed in interstate commerce; the products would be illegal and subject to seizure under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

#### Grade A (Fancy)

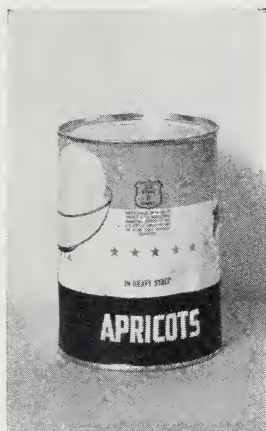


The packer or distributor is responsible for seeing that the quality of the food in this can meets the grade specified on the label.

Only the finest canned fruits and vegetables are in this grade. They are carefully selected as to size, color, degree of maturity, and freedom from blemishes. The fruits are meaty, highly colored, and ripe. They are almost always packed in sirup, which may be extra heavy (very sweet), heavy (sweet), light (somewhat sweet), or in water, slightly sweetened. For certain purposes,

the fruit may be packed in water without any sweetening. Grade A canned vegetables are the most tender and succulent produced.

### Grade B (Choice)

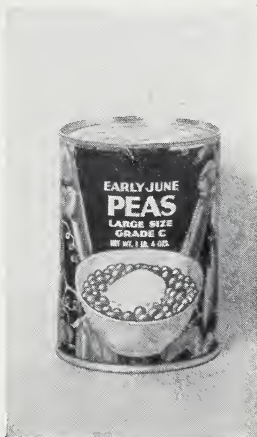


ABC grade labeling may be complemented by descriptive information, such as strength of sirup, in the case of fruits.

The products in Grade B are of excellent quality, though not quite so well selected as to color, size, and maturity as Grade A products. Grade B canned fruits are well-developed and well-colored, and are packed in sirup or water as described for Grade A. Grade B canned vegetables are not quite so succulent and tender as those of Grade A.

### Grade C (Standard)

Products in Grade C are of good quality but are not so uniform in color, size, and maturity as Grade B products. Grade C canned fruit may not be so highly colored, or so carefully selected as to size and symmetry, and though mature may vary somewhat in ripeness. The fruit may be packed in sirup or water. Grade C vegetables in some cases may have more food value than either Grade A or B as they usually are more fully mature than the products in the higher grades.



Type and size of peas, in addition to grade designation, help the homemaker to choose intelligently.

## Below Grade C in Quality

Some canned fruits and vegetables that fail to meet the requirements of Grade C in certain respects may be wholesome, nutritious, and acceptable in flavor, and if labeled to meet regulations for such foods as established under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, may be sold on the retail market.

### GRADES FOR 40 COMMODITIES

**G**RADES as listed have been developed by the Department of Agriculture for the following canned commodities:

| <i>Commodity</i>   | <i>Grades</i> | <i>Commodity</i>   | <i>Grades</i> |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Apples.....        | A, C.         | Okra.....          | A, C.         |
| Apple juice.....   | A, C.         | Olives, ripe.....  | A, B, C.      |
| Applesauce.....    | A, C.         | Orange juice....   | A, C.         |
| Apricots.....      | A, B, C.      | Peaches, free-     |               |
| Asparagus.....     | A, C.         | stone.....         | A, B, C.      |
| Beans, dry.....    | A, C.         | Peaches, yellow    |               |
| Beans, lima.....   | A, B, C.      | clingstone.....    | A, B, C.      |
| Beans, snap.....   | A, B, C.      | Pears.....         | A, B, C.      |
| Beets.....         | A, C.         | Peas.....          | A, B, C.      |
| Blackberries.....  | A, B, C.      | Peas, black-eye..  | A, C.         |
| Carrots.....       | A, C.         | Pimientos.....     | A, C.         |
| Cherries, red sour |               | Plums.....         | A, B, C.      |
| pitted.....        | A, C.         | Pumpkin.....       | A, C.         |
| Cherries, sweet..  | A, B, C.      | Raspberries, red.. | A, B, C.      |
| Corn, cream-style. | A, B, C.      | Sauerkraut.....    | A, C.         |
| Corn, whole-       |               | Spinach.....       | A, C.         |
| grain.....         | A, B, C.      | Succotash.....     | A, B, C.      |
| Figs, Kadota.....  | A, B.         | Sweetpotatoes ...  | A, C.         |
| Fruit cocktail.... | A, B.         | Tomatoes.....      | A, B, C.      |
| Grapefruit.....    | A, B.         | Tomato catchup..   | A, C.         |
| Grapefruit juice.. | A, C.         | Tomato juice....   | A, C.         |
| Mushrooms.....     | A, C.         | Tomato pulp.....   | A, C.         |

Specifications or descriptions of the grades will be sent to any one who asks for them. Requests should be addressed to the Agricultural Marketing Administration, Washington, D. C., and should designate the specific commodities in which the writer is interested.

### GRADING OF CANNED PRODUCTS

**A**LTHOUGH the Department of Agriculture has defined the requirements for A B C grades, a canner may grade his own fruit and vegetable products and employ grades that he has set up for his own use. If, however, he





A Federal inspector grading canned peaches.

uses the terms "Grade A," "Grade B," or "Grade C," on his labels to designate the grade of any of his products, such labeled products must meet the requirements for the specified grade as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture. Otherwise, he is liable to the penalties for mislabeling provided under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

If a canner prefers not to grade his own products, he may employ trained inspectors of the Department of Agriculture to inspect and certify the grade of such products for him by paying the fees required to cover the cost of the service.

## CONTINUOUS FACTORY INSPECTION

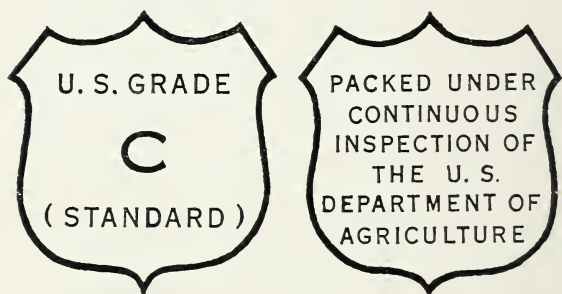
**I**NSPECTORS of the Agricultural Marketing Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, have been located in a few carefully selected canning factories under the "continuous inspection" experiment, requested by the canners who pay the cost of the service. Government inspectors are on duty all the time the plants are in operation, observing each step in the preparation of the product. Inspectors have been furnished only to plants that are co-

operating with the Administration in the grade labeling of their products. All these plants meet certain strict requirements relating to housekeeping and sanitation.

Only canned fruit and vegetable products packed in plants under the "continuous inspection" of the Agricultural Marketing Administration may carry the prefix "U. S." in connection with the grade designation.

Consumers can buy grade-labeled canned goods—with or without the "U. S." prefix—in many retail stores throughout the country. If the prefix is used, it means that the product has been prepared in a plant operating under continuous inspection of the Agriculture Marketing Administration, and that the inspector has certified the grade. If the prefix is not shown, the grade statement means that the packer or distributor assumes the responsibility for the accuracy of the grade designation.

Even if the grade and the inspection statement are omitted from the label, consumers can usually identify commodities packed under continuous inspection by the shield embossed in one end of the container. The shield is only for the identification of products packed under continuous inspection and does not indicate whether the grade of the contents is A, B, C, or off-grade.



These shields on labels indicate the grade and show that the product was packed under continuous inspection of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.



